

# Environment



## Benchmark:

Trees on City Property will be Systematically and Pro-Actively Maintained.



## Indicator 23:

Care and Maintenance of the City's Urban Forest, 1998-2008

*As of 2008, Lincoln's city trees provided an estimated \$1.58 return in economic & environmental benefits for every \$1.00 expended to plant & maintain them for a total net benefit of \$2,190,729.*

### Definitions:

- Street trees are trees that are planted in the public right-of-way along public streets and on private streets.
- Street trees are most often planted by the developer of a subdivision and public street trees are maintained by the City Parks & Recreation Department, Community Forestry Division.
- Per capita cost is figured by dividing the actual annual expended Community Forestry Division budget by the July 1 US Census population estimate for Lincoln for that year.

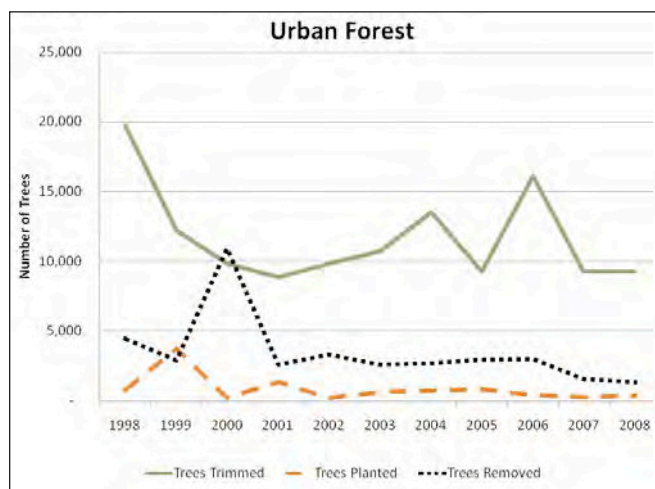
### Sources:

Parks and Recreation Department, Community Forestry Division, Quarterly Reports and 30 year synopsis

*Trees on City property, including street right-of-way, are maintained by the City Parks & Recreation Department, Community Forestry Division. Public trees, as well as private trees, have been shown to have environmental and economic benefits.*

**As of 2008, there are an estimated 123,304 trees on public land in the City of Lincoln valued at over \$64 million.**

- ♦ In general, more trees are currently removed from public property than are planted. Trees are removed if dead, damaged or diseased beyond treatment, or if they become a hazard to life or property.
- ♦ A large number of trees were either removed or trimmed in fiscal year 1997-1998 due to an early and heavy snowfall in October 1997 that caused much tree damage.
- ♦ In 1999-2000, over 8,000 volunteer cedar and locust trees were removed from the Wilderness Park Tree Management Area.
- ♦ In 2008, per capita expenditures for public tree care were \$5.59. In 1998, per capita expenditures were \$4.49, or \$5.55 when adjusted for inflation.
- ♦ Since 1998, the Community Forestry Division has performed or overseen 128,459 tree trimmings, 9,496 tree plantings, and the removal of 38,728 volunteer, dead, diseased or hazardous trees.
- ♦ As of 2008, there are an estimated 123,304 (valued at over \$64 million) trees on public land in the City of Lincoln compared to an estimated 112,651 in 2004 showing an increase of about 9.5 percent.
- ♦ Lincoln has been designated as a Tree City USA for 32 years, received the Tree City Growth Award for 18 consecutive years, and was one of the first 27 communities to become a Sterling Tree City USA in 2000. In 2008, the UNL campus became a Tree Campus USA. Currently, Lincoln is the only community nationwide to concurrently have all such designations.



**Note:** These numbers reflect trees removed or replaced by the Forestry Section and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget.